

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Changes to the specification are made with reference to the marked-up specification filed on July 7, 2006.

**Please amend the paragraphs referring to Figs. 3 and 4 as follows:**

Fig. 3 shows the safety coupling with the plug inserted, before the plug and blocking member are rotated into the conducting position; and

Fig. 4 shows the safety coupling with the plug inserted and in the conducting ~~position~~  
position; and

**Please amend the specification to add the following new paragraph after the paragraph beginning with “Fig. 4”.**

Fig. 5 is a cross-section of the locking sleeve illustrated in Figs. 1-4, the cross-section being taken along line 5-5 in Fig. 4 at a point in time before the locking sleeve rotates.

**Please amend paragraph [0011] as follows:**

[0011] Fig. 1 shows the coupler box 1 with the locking sleeve 2 placed over it. The coupler box 1 consists of a housing 3 of an essentially spherical outer shape shown in phantom lines. A cylindrical blocking member 4 is pivotally and sealingly mounted within the housing. The coupler box 1 is sealingly threaded or clamped to a pressure pipe 10 by means of a nut 9 or clamp. The cylindrical blocking member 4, which is also shown in phantom lines because it is not seen here, is diametrically penetrated by a bore 5 into which an appertaining plug 11 may be inserted in a sealing manner. The cap-like locking sleeve 2, which has such an inner diameter that it may be placed over the housing 3 from the front, has a hemispherical front portion and an oblong hole 6 which extends spherically about an angle of 90° round one side of the hemispherical front-end of the locking sleeve 2 from the center of the blocking member 4 to the

front tip 7 of the locking sleeve 2. The oblong hole 6 thus follows a great circle at the hemispherical front end of the cap-like locking sleeve 2. A similarly extending oblong hole 8 exists in the underlying housing 3 so that a plug 11 inserted in the bore 5 may be pivoted along this oblong hole 8, entraining the blocking member 4 and causing it to pivot in the housing 3. A spring ~~(not shown)~~ 20 (see Fig. 5) is provided inside the locking sleeve 2 behind the coupler housing 3. The ~~spring 3~~ spring 20 causes the locking sleeve 2 to rotate clockwise, as seen from the front, i.e. to the right in the drawing, until it abuts a stop 21 on the coupler housing 3 in the position shown. In this position, the rear end 6A of the oblong hole 6 is opposite one front side of the cylindrical blocking member 4 and is thus rotated 90° with respect to the underlying oblong hole 8 in the housing 3. In this rest position of the locking sleeve 2, which is taken by the sleeve whenever no plug 11 is inserted in the coupler box 1, the locking sleeve 2 protects the diametrical bore 5 in the blocking member 4 against intruding dirt, dust or foreign particles. The locking sleeve 2 may be rotated counter clockwise, as seen from the drawing, on the coupler housing 3 against the force of the inserted spring 20, in the direction of the arrow shown on the locking sleeve 2. This rotation is necessary to insert a plug 11 in the coupler box 1.

**Please amend paragraph [0012] as follows:**

[0012] Fig. 2 shows the condition of the coupler box 1 after the locking sleeve 2 has been rotated, starting from the situation in Fig. 1, counter clockwise, as seen from the front, by about 90° for inserting a plug 11, which rotation occurred against the force of the inserted spring 20. In this position of the locking sleeve 2, the oblong hole 6 of the sleeve has its rear end 6A exactly above the diametrical bore 5 in the blocking member 4. The bore 5 is thus free to allow a plug 11 to be inserted. The blocking member 4 is still unchanged in the rotary position in which its diametrical bore 5 extends in the coupler housing 3 transversely with respect to the direction of the pressure pipe. The blocking member 4 thus blocks the flow, just as before, so that the bore 5 is not under pressure. Therefore, a plug 11 may be easily inserted in a depressurized state into this bore 5 all the way to its stop. Sealing between the plug 11 and the bore 5 is achieved by a rubber O-ring provided on the plug 11 or inside the bore 5. Until the plug 11 has been inserted, the locking sleeve 2 must be held in the position shown against the effect of the spring force.

**Please amend paragraph [0014] as follows:**

[0014] Finally, the plug 11 takes the position shown in Fig. 4. Toward the end of its pivotal movement, the bore 5 in the blocking member 4 is pivoted into the pressure pipe and then communicates with the latter. The pressurised medium may flow through the coupling, which means that it flows through the bore 5 in the blocking member 4 and then into the plug 11 and the pressure pipe 12. As soon as the plug 11 has reached the position shown in Fig. 4, the locking sleeve 2 can rotate back counter clockwise due to the inner spring 20 so that it assumes the position shown in which the flat front end of the cylindrical blocking member 4 can be seen. In this position, the locking sleeve 2 prevents the plug 11 from rotating back, the plug 11 being also secured against falling out by means of a projecting shoulder being retained at the inner side of the oblong hole 6. The locking sleeve 2 encloses practically all of the coupling. If the coupling is being dragged on the floor, which often occurs in workshops and factories, its round front end prevents it from being caught at any obstacles, more than with an angular housing. The action of the spring force retains the locking sleeve 2 always in the locking position so that both the plug 11 and the blocking member 4 within the coupler housing 3 are safely protected against rotation.

**Please amend paragraph [0015] as follows:**

[0015] For uncoupling, the locking sleeve 2 is first rotated back counter clockwise by 90° to the right in the drawing, whereby the oblong hole 6 is brought back into the pivoting plane of the plug 11. The plug 11 may then be rotated in the direction of the arrow shown until it abuts the end 6A of the oblong hole 6 within the locking sleeve 2. In this rotary position, which again corresponds to that shown in Fig. 3, the plug 11 may be pulled out of the bore 5 in the blocking member 4 which latter now blocks the flow of the pressure medium. To use the coupling for high pressures or large pipe diameters, it is recommended to provide a release bore 22 (also referred to as a relief bore 22) within the coupler housing 3 which starts from the receiving bore or box, in which the blocking member 4 is pivotally mounted, and is outwardly open. During the pivotal movement of the blocking member 4, as long as the blocking member blocks the flow, this relief bore 22 is in communication with the bore 5 of the blocking member. Thus, when the plug 11 is pivoted back for uncoupling, the pressure in the plug is reduced by the fact that the pressure medium may escape through the relief bore 22 from the pressure pipe 12 and the plug 11 to the outside, as soon as the bore 5 comes to overlay the relief bore 22. Then, the plug 11 is further pivoted along with the blocking member 4 until it assumes its final position shown in Fig. 3. From this position, it

may then be pulled out of the bore 5 in the blocking member 4 in a depressurized state. After the plug 11 has been pulled out, the internal spring 20 causes the locking sleeve 2 to pivot back to its initial position shown in Fig. 1.

**After paragraph [0015], please insert the following new paragraph [0015a]:**

[0015a] Fig. 5 provides a cross section of the locking sleeve illustrated in Figs. 1-4, the cross-section being taken along line 5-5 in Fig. 4. As illustrated, the spring 20 is disposed inside the locking sleeve 2, behind the coupler housing 3. The spring 20 extends between the locking sleeve 2 and the coupler housing 3 to cause the locking sleeve 2 to rotate clockwise, as discussed above, until it abuts the stop 21 on the coupler housing 3. The relief bore 22 also is illustrated in this figure in greater detail.